

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARAMA 01159 291549Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OIC-02 AID-05 TRSE-00 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05
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-----291550Z 021844 /43
R 291259Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3089

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: OAS, NS
SUBJ: SURINAM'S ADMISSION TO OAS

REF : STATE 309858

1. AMBASSADOR HAS HAD FURTHER CONVERSATION WITH VAN DER GELD RE OAS SPECIAL GA FOR ADMISSION OF SURINAM, AND HAS REVIEWED WITH HIM WHAT HAS HAPPENDED UP TO NOW. VAN DER GELD REITERATED THAT PRIME MINISTER ARRON WOULD LIKE TO SEE SURINAM ADMITTED TO OAS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, WITHOUT WAITING FOR REGULAR GA. HE REALIZED THAT SURINAM COULD HAVE BEEN ADMITTED AT LAST GA AND THAT US AND OTHERS WERE PREPARED THEN TO VOTE IMMEDIATE APPROVAL, BUT GOS HAD NOT REALIZED THAT THINGS COULD MOVE SO FASL AND SBASSADOR HEIDWEILER WAS WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS AND COULD NOT COMMUNICATE WITH GOVERNMENT, SO DID NOT ASK FOR ADMIS- SION. REASON WHY KARAMAT HAD NOT INDICATED ANY URGENCY (PARA 3 REFTEL), WAS THAT GOS HAD NOT REALLY BEEN IN TOUCH WITH HIM ABOUT THE MATTER AND, IN FACT, HAS NOT EVEN BEEN IN TOUCH WITH PANAMA ABOUT ITS CALL FOR A SPECIAL GA, WHICH HAD BEEN DONE BY PANAMA WITHOUT CONSULTATION WITH SURINAM.

2. AMBASSADOR REPEATED THAT US EARLY OBJECTIONS HAD BEEN ON PROCEDURAL GROUNDS ALONE, THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO SUPPORT A SPECIAL GA AND WILL BE HAPPY TO COOPERATE WITH WHATEVER SURINAM
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WANTS DONE AND TO SEE IT ENTER OAS. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT PANAMA HAD NOT RAISED THIS MATTER AT DEC 5 MEETING AND THAT WE DID NOT KNOW IF PANAXA INTENDED TO DO SO AT A JANUARY MEETING. IF GOS AFFIRMATIVELY WANTS TO SEE SPECIAL GA HELD, THEREFORE, IT WOULD DO WELL TO CONSULT WITH PANAMA ABOUT PROPOSAL, SOUND OUT OTHER KEY OAS MEMBERS AS TO THEIR ATTITUDE, AND HAVE

AMBASSADOR KARAMAT INFORM DEPT OF WHAT HAD BEEN ARRANGED AND WHEN IT WAS TO TAKE PLACE. IN THAT WAY, USG COULD GIVE MOST EFFECTIVE SUPPORT TO WHATEVER INITIATIVE IS TAKEN ON SURINAM'S BEHALF. VAN DER GELD AGREED WITH THIS SCENARIO AND INDICATED HE WOULD BE GETTING IN TOUCH WITH KARAMAT.

3. COMMENT: WE HAVE DONE MORE THAN ENOUGH TO SHOW GOS THAT OUR INITIAL ADVERSE REACTION TO A SPECIAL GA WAS SOLELY PROCEDURAL AND EMBASSY IS SATISFIED OUR POSITION IS WELL UNDERSTOOD HERE. THAT BEING SO, RECOMMEND WE LIMIT FURTHER ACTION TO INFORMING PANAMA REP (PARA 2 REFTL), IF THAT HAS NOT YET BEEN DONE, THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO SUPPORT HIS PROPOSAL FOR A SPECIAL GA. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THERE IS ANY REASON FOR USG TO GET OUT AHEAD OF GOS ON THIS MATTER, AND GOS SHOULD MAKE ITS OWN EFFORTS WITH PANAMA AND OTHERS IF IT WANTS A SPECIAL SESSION. ZURHELLEN

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